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THINGS TO KNOW

JOVAN ALFORD, SPORTS EDITOR

This has not been a good season for defending Super Bowl champion the Eagles. Between the onslaught of injuries and suspect play-calling, it's been a year to forget. Speaking of injuries, it appears that the Eagles could be shutting down starting quarterback Carson Wentz for the rest of the season. Wentz, who missed all of the preseason and the first two games of this season rehabbing from a knee injury, is reportedly dealing with another injury and is not expected to play on Sunday night. **To read more about the injury, check out pages 4-5 and metro.us.**



BRITISH PM MAY SURVIVES CONFIDENCE VOTE, BARELY

British Prime Minister Theresa May survived a confidence vote by the Conservative Party on Wednesday, but a mutiny by more than a third of her lawmakers indicated parliament was heading toward deadlock over Brexit. While 200 Conservative lawmakers voted in support of May as leader, 117 dissented, indicating opposition not only from several dozen supporters of a hard Brexit but also from many more pragmatic lawmakers — and signaling that she was no nearer to passing her E.U. divorce agreement. It was not the robust affirmation she needed as she

heads to Brussels on Thursday to ask the other 27 E.U. leaders, who have made room for her at a summit, for clarification of the deal to reassure the doubters. On Monday, May had canceled a parliamentary vote on her deal, struck after two years of negotiations and designed to maintain close future ties with the bloc, after admitting it would be heavily defeated. With Britain due to leave the E.U. on March 29, parliament's opposition has suddenly opened up possibilities including a potentially disorderly exit with no deal or even another referendum on membership.

POPE DROPS 2 CARDINALS HIT BY SEX SCANDALS

Pope Francis has removed from his group of close advisers two cardinals hit by sexual abuse scandals, including his economy minister, Australian George Pell, the Vatican said on Wednesday. Pell has taken an indefinite leave of absence from his job as head of the Secretariat for the Economy, one of the most powerful posts in the Vatican, to defend himself from prosecution for historical child sexual offenses in Australia. Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said: "The Holy See has the utmost respect for Australian judiciary. We are aware that a

suppression order is in place (on media reporting on judicial procedures) and we intend to respect it." Asked if Pell, 77, was still economy minister, Burke suggested he was, saying there had been no announcement to the contrary. The other member removed from the so called C-9 — a group of nine cardinals that meets periodically with the pope in Rome — is Francisco Javier Errázuriz of Chile. Errázuriz, 85, the former archbishop of Santiago, has been accused by abuse survivors in Chile of discrediting victims and not investigating their cases, which he denies.

A DREAMLIKE FAIRYLAND IN CHINA'S 'SNOW TOWN'

Water freezes immediately in China's "Snow Town" on Wednesday in Mudanjiang, China. The area has become a popular attraction in China for snow lovers.



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TABLOID SAYS IT WORKED TO PAY 2016 HUSH MONEY

The publisher of the National Enquirer tabloid newspaper has admitted it paid hush money to a former Playboy magazine model to prevent her from going public ahead of the 2016 election with claims that she had an affair with President Donald Trump. Federal prosecutors in New York said on Wednesday that American Media Inc., as part of a deal to cooperate with prosecutors and avoid charges, admitted it made a \$150,000 payment to Karen McDougal "in concert" with Trump's presidential campaign. AMI said Chief Executive David

Pecker met with Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen and at least one other member of the campaign in August 2015 and offered to help with negative stories about Trump's relationships with women by buying the rights to those stories, according to a document made public by prosecutors. AMI's admission may support statements made by Cohen, who was sentenced on Wednesday to three years in prison for his role in the payments, that they were made to influence the election in violation of campaign finance law, legal experts said.

MEADOWS OUT OF RUNNING FOR WH CHIEF OF STAFF

President Donald Trump told Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows that he wants him to stay in Congress rather than take the White House chief of staff job the president is seeking to fill, three senior White House officials said on Wednesday. Meadows had been among 10 or 12 people that Trump is considering for the post that retired General John Kelly is leaving early in 2019. Kelly, Trump's second chief of staff, after Reince Priebus, had tried to bring more discipline to the chaotic Trump White House and frequently

found himself at odds with the president. Trump and Meadows, a North Carolina lawmaker who heads the conservative House Freedom Caucus, had a phone conversation to discuss the job, one White House official said. "Congressman Mark Meadows is a great friend to President Trump and is doing an incredible job in Congress. The president told him we need him in Congress so he can continue the great work he is doing there," the official said. Meadows said in a tweeted statement that he was committed to staying in Congress.

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NEWS



Carson Wentz's status for Sunday's game against the Rams is in doubt, according to NFL sources.

ALL GETTY IMAGES

Wentz may miss Sunday's game, season also in doubt

The Eagles QB did not practice on Wednesday due to serious back spasms.

JOVAN ALFORD
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When the Eagles take the field on Sunday night against the Los Angeles Rams, they could be without starting quarterback Carson Wentz. And according to reports, they may be without Wentz for the foreseeable future.

Eagles head coach Doug Pederson told reporters on Wednesday that the third-year quarterback is dealing with back spasms and did not take part in practice. He also said that the team would monitor Wentz's injury throughout the week, before making a determination on whether he will play Sunday.

However, Ian Rapoport of NFL Media reported that the young signal caller is not expected to play this week, according to sources. Rapoport added that the team was still gathering info on

Wentz's health and depending on the result, he could be done for the rest of the season.

If Wentz is unable to go on Sunday night, then that means Nick Foles will be back under center for the Eagles. The reigning Super Bowl MVP started the first two games of the season and led the Eagles to a win in the regular-season opener against the Atlanta Falcons.

According to sources close to ESPN's Adam Schefter, Foles has been "told to be ready to play."

Foles completed 65.6 percent of his passes for a touchdown and an interception in those first two games. Coincidentally, Foles had taken over for Wentz, who suffered his knee injury last season when the Eagles played the Rams in Los Angeles.

From there, we all remember how Foles finished the season and what he did in the post-season.

This is not the first time Wentz has been dealing with back issues over the course of the regular season. Pederson mentioned that he had

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been on the injury report before with them, which caused him to be limited in other practices.

Nevertheless, if Wentz's back is really an issue, then there is no point in playing him for the rest of the season. The snake-bitten Eagles are more than likely not going to make the playoffs, despite what the scenarios say, and if that's the case, they may decide it's better to shut down Wentz and get him healthy for next season.

Wentz, who missed all of the preseason and the first two games of the regular season rehabbing from a knee injury, made his season debut in Week 3 against the Indianapolis Colts.

That knee injury sidelined him during the Eagles' storybook Super Bowl-winning 2017 season and also put him out of the running for MVP Award considerations.

Wentz recorded 3,296 yards with 33 touchdowns and seven interceptions in just 13 games last year.

In 11 games this sea-

\$720K

The 25-year-old Carson Wentz is signed through the 2019 season, in which he'll make \$720,000.

son, he's completed a career-high 69.6 percent of his passes, with 21 touchdowns and seven interceptions. However, he's already been sacked 31 times, which is the second-most of his short career. That hasn't necessarily helped any sort of bumps and bruises picked up throughout the season.

His injury concerns mount further problems for Eagles management heading into the offseason. While they attempt to figure out how this team fell so far in just one year, an important topic of conversation will be whether to offer Wentz a new contract.

The 25-year-old is signed through the 2019 season, in which he'll make \$720,000.



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Whither Philly's \$137 million of soda tax revenues?

First 'Rebuild' ground-breaking scheduled in West Philly as controller releases new report detailing soda tax revenues.



SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Nearly two full years after Philadelphia's soda tax first went into effect, the tax has collected an estimated \$137 million in revenue, and the city is just now scheduled to break ground Thursday on the first "Rebuild" project funded by the tax.

Mayor Jim Kenney, City Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. and other leaders will gather at Parkside Fields

in West Fairmount Park at 2 p.m. Thursday for a ceremonial ground-breaking of two new athletic fields for youth sports activities.

Rebuild, the planned renovations to parks, rec centers and libraries throughout the city, is one of the tax's key purposes, along with funding community schools (12 so far) and universal pre-K programs (so far, 2,250 pre-K

seats have been funded by the city).

Rebuild is now getting underway after the soda tax — a.k.a. the Philly Beverage Tax, a 1.5 cent-per-ounce tax on all sweetened drinks including diet sodas and some non-soda drinks that went into effect January 2017 — was upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in July despite soda industry-

funded legal challenges.

But in a new release of city financial data, City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart noted that more than \$100 million of the \$137 million in revenue yielded so far by the tax is being held in the city's General Fund, and suggested that a "segregated" fund for soda tax revenue "would ensure that revenue is spent only on earmarked programs and would promote transparency."

Mayor Kenney's spokesman Mike Dunn responded that the suggestion of a segregated fund "is a red herring that again plays into the beverage industry's attempt to portray the use of the General Fund as something nefarious." He called keeping the revenues in the General Fund a "basic budgetary process."

roll), she said.

Dunn said Rhynhart's report methodology is flawed by including revenues from the first quarter of fiscal year 2019, instead of going by the full year. He noted that some costs were not included in the report, like \$3 million for enforcement of the tax, \$1.6 million in fringe costs, and an unspecified amount of expected debt service for Rebuild bonds issued within the past month.

"We have always said that revenues would outpace spending in the early years of the program, but that, after the programs ramped up, spending would eventually be greater than the amount of revenue generated by the tax," Dunn said. "We agree transparency on these transformative programs, and the innovative

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is providing an opportunity for public review and comment on proposed revisions to the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and the Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan (Administrative Plan). The two documents and summaries of proposed changes are available for public review and downloading on PHA's website at www.pha.phila.gov under the "Latest News" section or may be picked up at the following locations:

Scattered Sites Management Offices:

Abbottsford Homes – 3226 McMichael Street Wilson Park – 2500 Jackson Street
Westpark Apartments – 4445 Holden Street Fairhill Apartments – 2411 N. 11th Street
Spring Garden Apartments – 715 Brandywine Street

Public Housing Management Offices:

Bartram – 5404 Gibson Drive
Raymond Rosen – 2301 W. Edgely Street

PHA will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to the ACOP and Administrative Plan. PHA public housing residents, Housing Choice Voucher Program participants and the general public are invited to attend and provide comments at the Hearing and/or to submit written comments during the public comment period. The Public Hearing is scheduled for the following time and location:

December 18, 2018 at 12 noon
2013 Ridge Ave., 1st floor
Philadelphia, PA 19121

The public comment period begins on **Wednesday December 5, 2018** at 12:00 noon and ends on **Friday, January 4, 2019** at 12:00 noon. All comments must be received at PHA's office by the end of the comment period. Please send written comments to:

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Office of the General Counsel
Attention: ACOP and Administrative Plan Comments
1505 N. 24th street
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The Public Hearing is being held in an accessible location. Persons who require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations should call 215-684-5767 in advance of the Public Hearing. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.



"We have always said that revenues would outpace spending in the early years of the program, but that, after the programs ramped up, spending would eventually be greater than the amount of revenue generated by the tax."

Mike Dunn, mayor's spokesman

Rhynhart's office found that a total of roughly \$137 million has been generated by the tax, but the majority, \$101.2 million, "has not yet been spent and remains in the General Fund," they said. (The numbers are broken down in an online, downloadable data set.)

According to Rhynhart, the most spending has gone to pre-K with \$31.7 million (23.2 percent, primarily spent on contracts and leases). Community schools got \$3.5 million (2.5 percent, primarily spent on payroll), and Rebuild got \$605,431 (0.4 percent, mostly on pay-

way the city has chosen to pay for them, is important. And that's why it is crucial that the picture painted by these numbers is not distorted to fuel the relentless efforts of the beverage industry to eradicate the tax and the important programs that it funds."

Rhynhart's office said they chose to release data on soda tax revenues "due to overwhelming interest from the public in the tax and the programs that the tax funds."

Rhynhart's office is accepting suggestions for further data set releases online at controller.phila.gov.



RAPIDEYE

New at 30th Street: \$38M in renovations, and hope for the flipping board?

If you ride through SEPTA's 30th Street Market-Frankford station, you can start to expect a smoother experience.

30th Street Station has long been a hub for Amtrak, all 13 Regional Rail lines and SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line. Architecturally, the station is one of the crown jewels of Philadelphia's transit infrastructure, built between 1927-1933 and designed by the historic architecture firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White.

But one big challenge to the station has long been the transfer to the Market-Frankford Line, which includes leaving the grandeur of the main train station and crossing a busy street to enter the subterranean subway station.

Now, the 30th Street Market-Frankford station, one of SEPTA's busiest with an estimated 25,000 passengers daily, will be getting a revamp as part of a \$38 million project — with \$15 million arriving through federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. Nationwide, BUILD is issuing a total \$1.5 billion for 91 projects in 49 states, which U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao called "a down payment on this administration's commitment to America's infrastructure."

"The project will expand the capacity of the 30th Street Station and improve connections between the SEPTA and Amtrak stations at 30th Street," the Department of Transportation said in an announcement of the grant. "The project will provide new and expanded stairs, escalators, elevators, and fare payment configuration. It will redesign the entrance, and will transform station aesthetics to modernize

the station and improve circulation between transit modes."

SEPTA said the "modernization project" will "increase station capacity, improve passenger flow, and support the regionally significant economic development activities planned for the surrounding area," and include "an expanded mezzanine area, a new glass head house and canopy at the northwest corner of 30th and Market Street, a ramp to the new Drexel Square, improved lighting, signage and extensive bike parking."

The project is set to begin in 2019 and be completed by 2022. The federal grant represents 39 percent of the \$38 million project, and SEPTA said it is helping to leverage \$23 million in state, local and private funds, along with \$2 million from Brandywine Realty Trust.

"This project will allow SEPTA to better accommodate anticipated ridership growth."

SEPTA Gen. Manager Jeffrey D. Kneuppel

Meanwhile, what about 30th Street Station's famous flipping-board schedule sign, installed in 1971 and reportedly the last board at any Amtrak station in the nation?

Amtrak announced plans to replace the sign with a new digital sign two years ago. But Philly Congressman Brendan Boyle recently told WHYY he personally lobbied Amtrak's CEO to preserve the sign, which was tentatively scheduled for removal by January 2019. "People, myself included, have an attachment to this clickety-clack sign," Boyle said on WHYY's Radio Times.

SAM NEWHOUSE



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Bill Cosby's lawyers appeal sexual assault conviction

State appellate-level Superior Court to decide if erroneous legal procedures warrant a new trial for the once-beloved comedian.

Attorneys for Bill Cosby outlined their grounds on Tuesday for appealing his sexual assault conviction, citing what they called errors in legal procedure that may have biased the jury and warrant a new trial for the once-beloved comedian.

The 81-year-old performer, best known for his role on the hit television sitcom "The Cosby Show," was found guilty by a Pennsylvania jury in April of drugging and sexually assaulting a onetime friend in 2004.

It marked the first such criminal conviction of a celebrity accused of sexual misconduct since the #MeToo movement that has brought down dozens of powerful, privileged men in American media, politics and business since the autumn of 2017.

In September, the trial judge, Steven O'Neill, designated Cosby a "sexually violent predator" under Pennsylvania law, requiring the entertainer to register as a sex offender for life, and sentenced him to a term of three to 10 years in prison.

Cosby, who is married, has insisted all along that any sexual encounters he had were consensual. He was found guilty on three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

In an eight-page filing laying out the basis of their appeal, Cosby's lawyers focused on several instances they said introduced bias into the trial, including the judge's refusal to excuse a juror that the defense argued was unable to be fair and impartial.

The defense asserted that the juror in question had stated an inclination

to believe Cosby guilty at the outset of the trial, and that fellow jurors were never interviewed to determine whether they had heard the comment or were swayed by it.

In addition, according to the filing, O'Neill failed to recuse himself or disclose a biased relationship with Bruce Castor, a former Montgomery County district attorney with whom defense lawyers said the judge had a confrontation.

Cosby's lawyers have argued that Castor promised in 2005 that Cosby would not be prosecuted if he agreed to sit for a sworn deposition in a civil suit brought against him by his accuser, former Temple University administrator Andrea Constand.

That deposition, in which Cosby acknowledged giving sedatives called Quaaludes to young women for purposes of having sex with them, was unsealed a decade later, and Castor's successor, District Attorney Kevin Steele, cited it as a crucial piece of evidence when criminal charges were brought.

The judge should not have allowed Cosby's civil deposition testimony about Quaaludes to be introduced in his criminal trial, the defense said, arguing it was not relevant to Constand's allegations and was highly prejudicial because it included statements regarding the illegal act of giving a narcotic to another person.

Cosby's attorneys also faulted the judge for allowing prosecutors to call as witnesses other accusers whose allegations, the defense argued, were too remote in time and too dissimilar to Constand's allegations.

Moreover, the defense asserted that a prosecution expert who testified relied on hearsay evidence of about 50 additional women who had leveled sexual misconduct allegations against Cosby. **WRITERS**



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Michael Cohen, former personal lawyer to President Donald Trump.

GETTY IMAGES

Trump ex-lawyer Cohen given three years in prison, blames 'blind loyalty'

President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen was sentenced to three years in prison on Wednesday for orchestrating hush payments to women in violation of campaign laws before the 2016 election and financial crimes, posing potential legal and political risks to Trump.

In the courtroom, Cohen told U.S. District Judge William Pauley in Manhattan that "blind loyalty" led him to cover up for Trump. The sentence imposed by Pauley was a modest reduction from the four to five years recommended under federal guidelines but still highlighted the seriousness of the charges and possible implications for the president.

The sentencing capped a stunning about-face by a lawyer who once said he would "take a bullet" for Trump. Cohen said in a guilty plea in August that he was directed by Trump to make hush money payments to two women who said they had sexual affairs with the president in the past. Trump has denied the affairs and any involvement in the payments.

Pauley sentenced Cohen to 36 months for

the payments and to two months for Cohen's lies to Congress about a proposed Trump Tower project in Russia. The two terms will run simultaneously. The judge set March 6 for Cohen's voluntary surrender.

As part of the sentence, the judge ordered Cohen to forfeit \$500,000 and pay restitution of nearly \$1.4 million.

\$1.4M

As part of the sentence, the judge ordered Cohen to forfeit \$500,000 and pay restitution of nearly \$1.4 million.

Cohen, 52, walked into court with his wife, son and daughter amid a crowd of photographers and reporters. His 23-year-old daughter, Samantha, and 19-year-old son, Jake, both wept silently in the courtroom, the son wiping his eyes with his jacket sleeve. After being sentenced, Cohen walked over to his daughter and kissed her head.

Cohen's father, Maurice Cohen, who showed little emotion during the hearing, later told reporters: "My heart is

ripped."

Cohen pleaded guilty in August to charges including tax evasion, bank fraud and campaign finance violations in a case brought by federal prosecutors in New York. Cohen was sentenced on a separate charge of lying to Congress brought by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russia's role in the 2016 election and possible coordination between Trump's campaign and Moscow. Cohen pleaded guilty to that charge last month.

Federal prosecutors in New York charged that Cohen, just before the November 2016 election, paid adult-film actress Stormy Daniels \$130,000 and helped arrange a \$150,000 payment to former Playboy model Karen McDougal so the women would keep quiet.

Federal law requires that the contribution of "anything of value" to a campaign must be disclosed, and an individual donation cannot exceed \$2,700.

"It was my own weakness and a blind loyalty to this man that led me to choose a path of darkness over light," Cohen told the judge during the sentencing hearing. REUTERS

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Pat King
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HOLIDAY PACKAGE DELIVERY

Before I launch into this rant, I understand that it is an understatement to say that this is the busiest time of the year for UPS and FedEx delivery drivers all over. But, the anxiety of not knowing where packages are this time of year

can reach epic proportions when you are waiting to receive all of your gifts for the holiday season. Tracking information can get lost in translation from one facility to

the next, leaving you wonder what part of the country that Instant Pot is currently residing in on its way to your apartment. Will you receive your gifts in the nick of time

or will you lose the sentimental surprise you were hoping for?

While ordering online is definitely not a necessity — we could just go to local stores — it is

definitely the most convenient option for those who work all week. I don't know the solution. Maybe this anxious waiting is what we bargained for.

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GIVING UP YOUR SUBWAY SEAT FOR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT

This morning I saw a woman who must have been days away from giving birth get onto the subway. It took a few stops before anyone noticed her standing there, until someone got up to give her some much needed rest. I had been standing as well, so I could not help in this situation. People should really make more of an effort to take their earbuds out of their ears to help people out around them.

The world doesn't disappear when you are listening to music!

— Jeff, Metro New York reader



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Aries Look for the best way to stretch your money. Don't feel that you must spend a lot to win someone's favor. You'll make a better impression if you are a responsible consumer.



Taurus Take your responsibilities seriously. How you do things will set an example for the youngsters in your life or the people who work under you. Personal improvements can be made.



Gemini Be careful whom you trust. Keep your personal information and passwords locked up, and be wary of anyone who asks too many questions about your assets or connections.



Cancer Don't limit what you can do when you should be exploring your options and trying new things. Focus on having fun. Romance should be a priority.



Leo Getting out and making plans and preparations for upcoming celebrations should be your intent. Shopping and entertainment will get you in the spirit of the season, but don't overspend.



Virgo You can't please everyone, so you might as well please yourself. Problems at home will mount if someone expects too much or has a tendency to be excessive.



Libra Advice regarding a problem you face in your personal life will be offered. An honest evaluation may not be what you want to hear, but it will help you make a decision.



Scorpio Keep an open mind and consider all your options. Travel plans can be put into play, and doing something interesting with a loved one will get you in a festive mood.



Sagittarius Personal matters that can have a big effect on your life will require special attention. Don't leave anything to chance or in someone else's hands.



Capricorn Don't let your emotions interfere with what you know is right and best for you. Focus on yourself, your health and your future. A romantic gesture will be appreciated.



Aquarius Look into a professional or financial change you want to make. You'll come up with a plan that will make your life easier and your standard of living better.



Pisces Don't let anyone ruffle your feathers. Stand your ground and demand honesty. Charitable acts will restore your faith in humanity. Love and compassion should be priorities. EUGENIA LAST

LIFESTYLE



"Chilling Adventures of Sabrina: A Midwinter's Tale" streams Friday on Netflix. DEAN BUSCHER/NETFLIX

Even Netflix's 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina' has a Christmas special

The hugely popular adaptation of the Archie Comics teen-age witch celebrates the holidays in its own way.



ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

To the surprise of no one, especially those already familiar with The CW's Archie Comics adaptation "Riverdale," the first season of Netflix's "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina" was a smash for the streamer. Unlike the ABC sitcom starring Melissa Joan Hart, this television iteration of the character has adopted a much darker and more mature approach to its storytelling. Yet despite all this, "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina" is still going to put out a Christmas special.

Titled "A Midwinter's Tale," it by no means is a

departure from what the 10-episode first season has established. Sabrina Spellman (Kiernan Shipka), the human-witch hybrid who tried to avoid the first season's "dark baptism" that would have required her to renounce her human half, is going to spend the holidays with her two witch aunts, Hilda (Lucy Davis) and Zelda (Miranda Otto). Yes, that's right. Witches celebrate the Winter Solstice every year by singing pagan carols and telling ghost stories.

Of course, "A Midwinter's Tale" isn't just the festive gathering of Sabrina, her two aunts, her cousin Ambrose (Chance Perdomo) and their friends inadvertently celebrating the Christmas spirit. It's also another solid mix of fantasy, horror and intrigue that not only pits the hero against a new challenge, but spends time telling viewers about Sabrina's past.

The first season provid-

ed brief glimpses, albeit through other characters' exposition, into the life of the young Sabrina Spellman. In "A Midwinter's Tale," audiences get to see firsthand what she was like thanks to the casting of McKenna Grace, who plays a much younger and precocious version of the half-witch. The special also adds "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" alum Alexis Denisof as Mary Wardwell's (Michelle Gomez) unsuspecting boyfriend Adam Masters, and Jedidiah Goodacre as literary character-turned-nightclub owner Dorian Gray.

New casting additions and story beats notwithstanding, "A Midwinter's Tale" very much feels like a bonus episode as much as a special. Of course, that's not to say it is an absolute requirement that potential novices watch the entire first season before checking it out, but a little foreknowledge wouldn't hurt.



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How hip-hop inspired 'Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse'

The film's directors
talk us through their
take on the Marvel
superhero.**GREGORY WAKEMAN**
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

"Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" is unlike any Spider-Man movie that you've seen before.

First of all, it riffs off the fact that there have now been half a dozen Spider-Man movies. But it also takes a deep dive into the illustrious 56-year-old history of the comic-book character and introduces moviegoers to numerous versions of the iconic hero.

But while there's more than one Peter Parker in the film, "Into the Spider-Verse" primarily revolves around Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), who, days after



being bitten by a radioactive spider, has to try and stop the villainous Kingpin (Liev Schreiber) from using a device that has already brought Peter B. Parker (Jake Johnson), Spider-Woman (Hailee Steinfeld), Spider-Noir (Nicolas Cage), Peni Parker (Kimiko Glenn) and Spider-Ham (John Mulaney) into his universe.

"Into the Spider-Verse" directors Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey

and Rodney Rothman knew just how big of an opportunity it was to tell Morales' origin story to a mainstream audience. But they also wanted to make sure the film was still as relatable and embraced the themes that have anchored the character since his debut.

"For us, at the core of it was obviously Miles' origin story, and it was a big deal to share that," Ramsey tells Metro.

"But in the course of doing that, we wanted to introduce all of the other Spider-people and tease their story."

"What is consistent is that they thought they were the only ones and they were all bitten," he adds. "For all of them, it became about overcoming a loss, finding something they had inside them that they didn't think they had and rising to a challenge. That is the part that keeps on going on and on and allows to be told in many different iterations."

They don't dive in too deep into the other origin stories, though. For good reason, too, as they assume that viewers are well-versed in how Miles' Spider brethren got their powers.

"We definitely decided that we wanted to assume our audience was really smart and re-

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(end of ramp) We are about 2 blocks away on the right

DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED





Directors Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey and Rodney Rothman open up about their take on Spider-Man. GERTY IMAGES

ally literate about the other movies," explains Persichetti, "whether that was in terms of the story or visuals. And we could go a step ahead because our audience was ready to go with us."

When it came to intricately meshing the stories of Miles, Peter B. Parker, Spider-Woman, Spider-Noir, Peni Parker and Spider-Ham in one giant Spider movie, there was one creative reference point and in-

spiration that the directors kept coming back to.

"Hip-hop is one of the creative pillars and inspirations in our movie and telling Miles' story," says Rothman. "That's the world that he lives in and it is the world that we live in, this culture where you take old ideas, remix them, and come up with something new and it gains new meaning and holds on to the soul and spirit of the original idea for

the original work."

"I think you see that in our movie, definitely," he adds. "That you can take something familiar, shuffle the pieces and create a new version that reinstates the most powerful parts of the story in a new and vivid way. You just get all kinds of new energy and freshness from that."

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" opens in theaters Dec. 14.

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All three locations of Weavers Way are offering the perfect holiday gift for anyone on your list including Christina Mazer candles. There are plenty of delightful options for scents including Cinnamon Sticks, Frankincense & Myrrh and Fir Needle. The popular spot is also offering cute piggy banks with oversized cork noses

and ceramic bowls from Karen Amundson and CBD items including topical therapeutic oils, gummies, sparkling water and more. For kiddos there is also all-natural handmade in the USA eco-dough and one-of-a-kind gifts from cat menorah illustrated greeting cards. Various prices, weaversway.coop

Scarpetta Pasta-Making Class

This gift is perfect if you are looking for a fun activity to do with a loved one. Learn how to hand make Scarpetta's signature spaghetti from scratch, sip on fine wine, indulge in light canapes and get a behind-the-scenes tour of the restaurant all while acclaimed Chef Michael Loughlin teaches you the ins and outs of pasta making. \$95, scarpettarestaurants.com

Moxie Blue Salon Gifts

The popular beauty spot is offering wonderful deals on plenty of must-have products. The store features discounts and special pricing on the Gentleman's Cut, Hydra-Facial package, Blowout packs and gift card bonuses. If you or someone you love is in need or some serious pampering check out the gifts Moxie Blue has to offer. Various prices, moxiebluesalon.com

Unique Eats & Eateries of Philadelphia

The book from Irene Levy baker is perfect for any Philadelphian interested in the food scene or wants to learn more about the city's history. The book delves deep into interesting stories behind 90 of the Philadelphia area's most fascinating restaurants. Learn about how two

chocolatiers got engaged, which eateries survived an earthquake, a secret spot that began in a backyard tent, how to get access to the most exclusive spots in the city



and much more. \$20.95, uniqueeatsphilly.com

Boardroom Spirits Gifts

The notable distillery located in the Philly area is offering up different

and delicious options for the holiday season as part of their recently launched Pennsylvania Pour Collective. Their Nocino is made from green walnuts in the style of the traditional Italian liqueur and their line of fresh vodkas feature flavors of ginger, citrus and cranberry. All of these tasty spirits are the perfect option for any holiday gift. Buy any of the new products at Christmas Village, Reading Terminal Market or their Lansdale distillery. \$24.99-\$39.99, boardroomspirits.com

Art in the Age Whiskey

Art in the Age, Old City's one-of-a-kind tasting room, home bar supply and bottle shop is offering up a new small-batch malt whiskey by New Liberty Distillery. The Shane Confectionery Cacao Whiskey is perfect for any spirit lover who also

has an intense cocoa craving. Order yours ASAP, this new whiskey is only available while supplies last. Art in the Age is also offering boozy kits for the festive season including The Shaken Cocktail Kit, Classic Whiskey Bar Kit, Terra Luna Seasonal Bitters Kit and The Tiki Kit to make any Philly local a true bartender. \$44.99, artintheage.com

Philadelphia Museum of Art Membership

With a world-renowned collection of historic art and thought-provoking exhibits, a membership to the Philadelphia Museum of Art is the perfect gift for anyone on your Christmas list. Members get special benefits and even access at Stir, the new exclusive eatery at the museum and the only Frank Gehry-designed restaurant on the East Coast. \$75, philamuseum.org

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5 Great home and kitchen products to get on Amazon

If you are like millions of Americans, waiting until the last minute to buy your loved ones gifts is a habit you may have trouble breaking year after year. Lucky for you, Amazon is slashing prices on some of its hottest items in time for the holiday season. Here are some amazing home products that you can get on Amazon Prime to get delivered just in time for Christmas. **PAT KING**

1



DASH RAPID COLD BREW SYSTEM

Sometimes that Keurig maker or brewing a fresh pot just won't cut it for your daily caffeine fix. With this Rapid Cold Brew System from Dash, you or whoever is lucky enough to get this gift from you will be able to brew 7 cups of cold brew in just 5 minutes.

Price: \$129

2



AMAZONBASICS 18-PIECE DINNERWARE SET

It's easy to not realize when you should toss out old chipped plates and bowls to start fresh. Luckily, Amazon is now offering an 18-Piece Dinnerware Set so you or someone you know can be ready for any get together. Price: \$31.99

3



DASH COMPACT AIR FRYER

We all love the crunchy sensation of biting down into the perfect french fry. Who cares if having more than six is now deemed as "unhealthy"? Installing a deep fryer station at home could be difficult in most people's living situations, or even considered a "fire hazard" by some buzzkill landlords out there. So we suggest going for the healthier and more compact option with this Dash Compact Air Fryer. Rather than using oil, this wonder machine uses hot circulating air in order to crisp whatever you put into its tray. Highly recommended.

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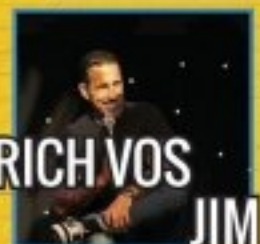
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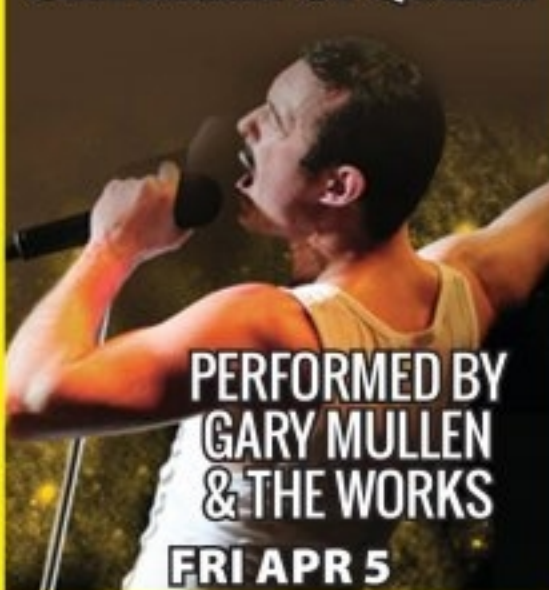


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Best Christmas gifts for less than \$100

The time to prepare gifts for our loved ones is here. If you are looking to buy technology, Metro highlights the best options below a hundred dollars.

DANIEL CASILLAS | METRO WORLD NEWS



Roku Streaming Stick+

This small streaming video player could be a great gift this Christmas because it provides a 4x range and stronger signal for smooth streaming, even in rooms further from your router. It streams every major video service including Netflix, Amazon Prime, YouTube, Vudu and HBO Go.

Price: \$49

Amazfit Bip

Smartwatches are one of the most eagerly-awaited gifts this Christmas, but most of them cost at least \$200. This option is sold for a tiny bit less than \$90. This watch connects to your smartphone, allows you to receive notifications, measures your physical activity and even follows your steps with GPS technology.

Price: \$89.90



Fire HD 8 Tablet

Since the launch of the first iPad, tablets have become one of the most popular devices. Now you can give one as a gift! The Fire HD 8 Tablet, developed by Amazon, has a Vibrant 8" HD display, powerful 1.3 GHz quad-core processor, stereo speakers, Dolby Audio, 1.5 GB of RAM, long-lasting battery, and is hands-free with Alexa.

Price: \$79.99

SNES Classic Edition

Video game consoles will always be an excellent Christmas present, but they are often expensive. However, this is not the case with the SNES Classic Edition, which for less than \$100 can offer you hours and hours of fun with 20 games that let you relive your memories. With it, you can finally play the never-released "Star Fox 2."

Price: \$79.99



JBL Link 10

Bluetooth speakers are also a great gift option this holiday season. The JBL Link 10 is a smart, portable Bluetooth speaker that delivers immersive, high-quality audio — and it's compatible with your favorite music apps. This black JBL portable speaker comes with the voice-activated Google Assistant, so you can control it hands-free.

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MEDIA PARTNERS



Millennial money: How to just say no to gift exchanges

It's time to prioritize your holiday shopping list.



NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

Your college roommate. Your current roommate. Your book club. Your brunch crew. Your office secret Santa. Your cousins. Your siblings. Your parents. Your partner. Their parents.

As your social circle expands, so does your holiday shopping list. But what happens when you can't afford to buy gifts for everyone?

One option: Cut back on gift exchanges.

Opt out of the office secret Santa. Don't give your child's day care provider a present. Tell your roommate/cousins/friends

that you can't exchange gifts this year.

This move may seem harsh, but if the alternative is going into debt, it could be the best move.

Last year, 65% of millennial shoppers bought gifts with their credit card. This year, roughly a third of them are still paying off that debt, according to an annual survey of holiday shoppers from NerdWallet.

Consult your budget. Now is a good time to make a budget, if you don't already have one. Factor in your normal expenses — rent, electric bill and pallets of LaCroix — plus things like holiday travel. Now you know what you have to spend on gifts this year.

Your budget may allow for some gifts, but there's a good chance you'll need to make some cuts.

Work secret Santa

This is a tricky one to navigate. One school of thought is to make the office exchange a priority.

"If there's a work set-



ting where everybody's participating, you must participate," says Jennifer Porter, a manners teacher and gift shop owner. "It shows goodwill. These are your colleagues. Pony up for that and feel good about it."

But office size and dynamics come into play. If your office is large enough, you may be able to opt out without anyone noticing. Just don't sign up. End of discussion.

It's harder to bow out in a smaller office

or team, especially if the whole group gets together for the gift giving. If it's simply not in your budget, talk to the person organizing your office exchange.

"Let them know, so you don't have to make a campaign about it," says Elaine Swann, an etiquette expert and founder of The Swann School of Protocol. You can spare them extra details, Swann says, and spare yourself the need to tell all of your office

mates.

Friend and family gift exchanges

Your immediate family is likely on your must-gift list, but extended family may not make the cut. The same is true for your closest friends versus your larger friend group. It's OK to ask to scale back things to fit your budget.

You don't need to put up a front with your nearest and dearest. Remember, these are the people who know you best.

"You can be a little more frank and transparent," Swann says. "If there's anyone who's going to understand, it will be those you have a close relationship with. They will understand and almost expect it."

Child's teacher

In this instance, less is more. There's no need to tell the teacher they won't get a present from Junior this year. A heartfelt note from you and your child will be cherished as much as

another gift card or coffee mug, if not more.

Having the talk

If you decide to end or opt out of a gift exchange, be honest and considerate. You want to halt the presents, not the relationship. Don't make up excuses or put off the conversation until a week before Christmas, Swann says.

"Be brutally honest, without being brutal," she says. "Frankly say, 'Thank you for thinking of me and wanting to include me, but I will not be able to participate.' Resist the urge to over explain."

You'll likely find people understand — they may even be relieved. But if they're not OK with it, give them space.

"Don't try to fix it in that instance. Allow that person to go through the process of being disappointed," Swann says. "Your role is not to get them over to your side. Your role is just to inform them of your intentions."

KELSEY SHEEHY

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Why you may *overspend* on the holidays and how to stop

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NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

Holiday shopping season has a pesky habit of eating up your extra cash.

Some 51 percent of all Americans say they “typically overspend” on holiday gifts, according to a 2018 NerdWallet survey, conducted by The Harris Poll.

Here are five reasons you might be overspending during the holidays — and how to fix them.

I You're shopping in the store

The first mistake? Setting foot in the store.

“Once you cross that threshold into the store, you're really on the marketer's turf there,” says Kelly Goldsmith, an associate professor of marketing at Vanderbilt University.

“You come in wanting to just get a sweater for your mom, and you

know exactly what she wants, but they're going to bombard you with messaging about toys for your kids or, shouldn't you be in touch with your brother?”

Those persuasive messages can tempt you to buy more than you originally intended.

Tip: If you go to the store, be laser-focused, Goldsmith says. Otherwise, shop online. You'll avoid the in-store messaging and marketing. Plus, you can compare prices at multiple retailers with the click of a mouse.

2 You don't know when to stop
Once you start shopping, it's tough to know when enough is enough. Sure, you already bought your mom a blush-pink sweater, but that designer purse in the window would match it perfectly. Maybe you'll just add one more thing...

“I think part of the reason why we can't shut our wallets once we start spending on others is, spending feels good,” Goldsmith says.

It doesn't help that a lot of people don't

put a dollar figure on how much they want to spend on each person, she says. And shopping without a budget can lead to overspending.

Tip: Make a list, make a budget and check them twice. “Just like Santa Claus, make a list of names, make a list of presents, make a budget for those presents on that list and then





stick to it," Goldsmith says.

3 You're focusing on the wrong things

The next culprit? Overemphasizing the material value of the holidays.

Tim Kasser, a professor of psychology at Knox College, has done research on the topic of happiness during the Christmas season.

"We found that the more people oriented their Christmas season around spending and buying things, actually the lower well-being they experienced at Christmastime," Kasser says.

Despite this, he says TV, radio and internet

advertisements repeat the message that happiness is obtained via shopping and that a good Christmas depends on shopping, a message that consumers hear loud and clear.

Tip: Consider unconventional gifts. Kasser says his family has given nonmonetary presents along with traditional gifts. Think, a coupon for your son that says he can skip his veggies at dinner. It's fun, yet frugal.

4 You're letting emotion take over
People often overspend because they're trying to handle some type of emotional issue, like a need for love or affection. That's according to Dr. April Lane Benson, a psychologist and author of "To Buy or Not to Buy: Why We Overshop and How to Stop."

"Let's say you're buying something for someone else," Benson says. "You're hoping that you'll get the love and affection because you've now bought them something."

"Or you go into a store because you're lonely, and there are salespeople there egging you on and making conversation with you, and you start to feel less lonely."

The result? You buy more than you need.

Tip: Before you make any purchases this holiday season (or anytime, really), Benson recommends stopping and

asking yourself a series of questions: *Why am I here? How do I feel? Do I need this? What if I wait? How will I pay for it? Where will I put it?* "What that does is create a delay between the impulse and the action," Benson says. "That moment of delay can get us back into gear."

5 You're procrastinating
The final reason your holiday gifts could run up a hefty tab? You're buying them too late.

"If you're shopping at the last minute, you're definitely going to go over budget," says Diane McCrohan, an associate professor in the College of Business at Johnson & Wales University.

"You don't have the selection and you don't have the time that you need. Like if you're shopping online, you're not going to have the time, and you're going to end up spending more on shipping."

Tip: Shop early and, when possible, avoid the last few days before Christmas. McCrohan says those who wait until Christmas Eve hoping for good deals may actually end up spending more. After all, stores know there will be plenty of last-minute shoppers, so there's less incentive to put things on sale.

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Week 15 NFL Power Rankings

The Rams have been knocked from their perch after a loss to the Bears.

LUKE MILLER
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1. KC CHIEFS (11-2) LAST WEEK: 4

They wouldn't have been the popular choice after releasing their star running back, but everything is breaking right for the Chiefs at the moment. They converted two late fourth downs in a comeback victory this week and the Patriots loss to Miami helps them in the race for home-field advantage.

2. N.O. SAINTS (11-2) LAST WEEK: 2

The Saints started slow once again against Tampa Bay and it looked like their explosive offense might be disappointing for a third straight game. They rebounded from the first half of this game and their first loss since Week 1 last week. They've returned to the top seeding in the NFC thanks to their earlier victory over the Rams and the Rams' loss to Chicago after spending only a week as the two seed.

3. LA RAMS (11-2) LAST WEEK: 1

Jared Goff had the worst game of his young career Sunday night against the Bears. He was intercepted four times and brought down for three sacks, one of which gave the Bears a lead they never relinquished. Sean McVay was quick to pile the blame on himself, but if 2017's NFL Coach of the Year can't get this offense turned around quickly, it would be a shock.

4. LA CHARGERS (10-3) LAST WEEK: 6

The Chargers charged back from behind again. They continue to stay hot on the heels of Kansas City but a less-than-stellar division record means they'll need to do more than just win their remaining head to head matchup against the Chiefs if they want to take over the division lead.

5. N.E. PATRIOTS (9-4) LAST WEEK: 3

Playing in Miami proved to be a difficult task for the Patriots yet again, though this loss goes in a category all its own. After a 52-yard hook and ladder beat them on the final play, New England lost for the fifth time in their last



Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs continue to roll. GETTY IMAGES

six visits to the Dolphins. The last-second loss could leave a serious impact on their playoff seeding — and that's no laughing matter: the Patriots are just 3-4 on the road this season.

6. CHICAGO BEARS (9-4) LAST WEEK: 8

The Monsters of the Midway are back in Chicago. A week after they dropped a shocker to the Giants they pulled their own upset against the Rams. But it wasn't because they had their quarterback Mitchell Trubisky back in the starting lineup. The Bears won despite Trubisky's

three interceptions and thanks to their defense's dominance of the Rams offense.

7. DALLAS COWBOYS (8-5) LAST WEEK: 9

The Cowboys paid a steep price for Amari Cooper, but they may have gotten a bargain. Since adding a legitimate threat at wide receiver the Cowboys have won five in a row. Cooper's 200-yard day Sunday was highlighted by a 75-yard score that immediately returned the lead to Dallas and the game-winning touchdown in overtime where he came away with a

tipped ball and walked into the end zone.

8. SEA. SEAHAWKS (8-5) LAST WEEK: 7

Seattle put two wins between themselves and the rest of the NFC wild-card contenders Monday night. The season that was supposed to be the largest step backward for Seattle after the breakup of the Legion of Boom has them instead on the doorstep of the playoffs. It's thanks to a return to running the ball. Seattle leads the league in rushing and added another game above 200 yards on the ground against the Vikings.

9. HOUSTON TEXANS (9-4) LAST WEEK: 5

The Texans loss to their division rivals was their first loss since September. Even with their nine-game win streak coming to an end, they maintain a two-game lead over the Colts and Titans with three games to play. He had just 36 yards in the loss, and it's been four games since he reached the century mark, but DeAndre Hopkins surpassed the 7,000-career-receiving-yard mark Sunday. He's the second youngest player to do so behind the immortal Larry Fitzgerald.

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Chiefs take top spot

10. IND. COLTS LAST WEEK: 13

The Colts rebounded strongly on offense from their shutout loss a week ago. T.Y. Hilton had 199 yards receiving; it was his third career game surpassing 175 yards in Houston. At tight end, Eric Ebron caught his 12th touchdown pass this season. Ebron caught 11 touchdowns in his career in Detroit before signing with Indianapolis this off-season. The Colts face a pair of hot NFC East opponents the next two weeks: Dallas and the Giants.

11. MIAMI DOLPHINS LAST WEEK: 17

The Miracle in Miami — a 52-yard hook and ladder finished off by Kenyan Drake outrunning Rob Gronkowski to the endzone — punctuated this weekend and gave Miami revenge for an earlier loss in New England. It also kept the unlikely Dolphins

in the thick of the play-off races. Next up is another team struggling to outpace a crowded field, this time in the NFC: Minnesota.

12. BALTIMORE RAVENS LAST WEEK: 10

The Ravens unraveled late under some monstrous pressure from Justin Houston and the Chiefs defensive line. But there was a lot to like about the way they played until then. Lamar Jackson's first loss wasn't a back breaker, and there remains a lot to like about the Ravens' chances in the wild card and — thanks to Pittsburgh's disaster in Oakland — the AFC North.

13. TENNESSEE TITANS LAST WEEK: 16

Entering last Thursday night, the Titans hadn't had a 100-yard rusher this season. Derrick Henry almost ended that streak on one play

when he went 99 yards for a record-tying touchdown run. It was part of a franchise record 238 rushing yards and four touchdowns for Henry. Blowing out Jacksonville keeps Tennessee in the thick of the wild card race. The two leading rushers from Week 14, Henry and Saquon Barkley, will face off when they visit the Giants.

14. PITTSBURGH STEELERS LAST WEEK: 11

The Steelers lost for the third week in a row and the circumstances are just getting messier each time. Ben Roethlisberger left the game injured before returning to the Pittsburgh sideline while Josh Dobbs led the Steelers offense. With the game on the line, and Roethlisberger suddenly healthy enough to play, he took over on the final drive and led the Steelers into field goal range.

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Penn snaps Nova's 6-year hold on city in classic

The Quakers last defeated the Wildcats on Dec. 5, 2001.

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Put this down in the "man bites dog" column.

Not since 2012 — a span of 25 games — had Villanova lost a game to a Big 5 team, a run that also includes Jay Wright's Wildcats winning two National Championships in the last three years.

But if you think that's long, consider this: Not since Dec. 5, 2001, had Penn knocked off Nova, which means many of the current Quakers were just out of diapers or maybe in nursery school when then-coach Fran Dunphy's gang celebrated victory over their Main Line counterparts.

So perhaps you can understand the scene at the hallowed Palestra around 9:20 p.m. ET on Tuesday night. The moment Phil Booth's last-ditch three-point attempt from the deep corner to force overtime fell short as the buzzer went off, hundreds of Penn students and alumni rushed the court in jubilation.

The drought was finally over. The Quakers had finally beaten the Wildcats, 78-75, in a game that will go down in Big 5 and Palestra lore as one to remember.

"It's something we've been thinking about every year," said Penn's A.J. Brodeur, whose 16 points tied him for team-scoring honors with Antonio Woods.

"They call it the Big 5, but really it seemed like the Big 1. Villanova always comes out on top. They're always on the podium at the end of the year at the

Big 5 banquet," he said.

The best the Wildcats (8-3, 3-1 in the Big 5) can do now is share that podium with 2-0 Penn and/or 2-1 Temple, who have yet to play. However, the Quakers have a shot at their first outright Big 5 title since 2002, the same season they last beat Villanova, with wins over both Temple and Saint Joseph's next month.

They'll deal with that then. For now, they just want to savor this moment.

"It's an amazing feeling," said Quakers coach Steve Donahue, who lost his glasses during the postgame locker room euphoria.

"This is my 33rd year coaching. We sell the Big 5. We sell what you saw tonight. For them to live that out, and come out victorious, in that environment ... they'll never forget that night."

"I also think it's a big win because of what Villanova has done," he continued. "They've literally won two of the last three national championships. That's what makes the Big 5, this win, special. Because of what they've accomplished. I thought Villanova played out of

their minds. It wasn't like they laid an egg."

However, the Quakers simply hatched a better game plan. Penn denied Nova's usually-lethal three-point shooters the space they're accustomed to and crashed the boards with abandon, out-rebounding the Wildcats, 35-22.

In a game where an early 14-2 Penn lead quickly turned into a 17-14 deficit, the Quakers settled down and consistently made one clutch play after another down the stretch to spell the difference. Even Wright, as gracious in defeat as he is in victory, conceded that.

"It was a great college basketball game and great Big 5 game," said Wright, whose No. 17-ranked team has little time to lick its wounds before traveling to Kansas on Saturday, where the No. 1-ranked Jayhawks will be out to avenge their 95-79 Final Four loss to Nova.

"The outcome is not what we like, but give them credit. They just played a better game. They're a better team at this point in the season than we are."

"We're a team that's growing," he added.

"We'll learn a lot from this."

As for seeing that six-year run finally end, he says there's simply no time to dwell on it.

"It was nice while it lasted," said Wright, as the Wildcats — down 75-69 with 23 seconds left when Penn freshman Michael Wang sank two free throws — clawed back within 78-75 when Booth drained a pair of three-pointers.

Villanova then got the ball back when Penn turned it over with 1.3 seconds left, before Booth's prayer from the corner wasn't answered.

From there, Penn could finally breathe a sigh of relief. "Having grown up in this city, this is what the Big 5 is supposed to be," said Donahue said.

"The Palestra was going crazy. Your kids are playing out of their minds. Everyone's diving for loose balls. It's just what this building brings to the Big 5."

On a night when man bit dog — and Villanova not only lost a Big 5 game for the first time in six years, but to Penn, for the first time in 17 — there's nothing more to say.

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GAMES

metro.us/crossword

ACROSS

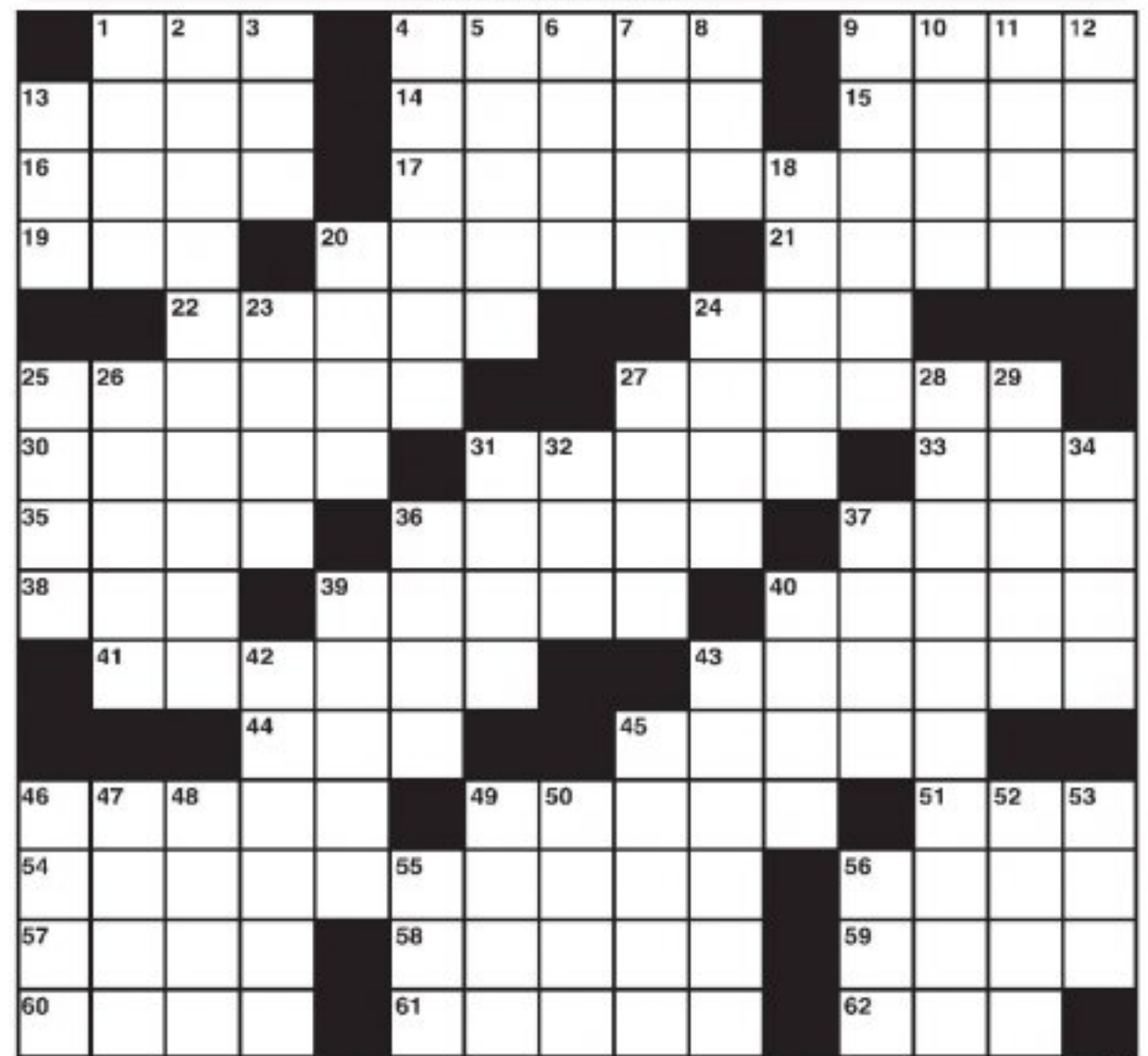
- 1 Bone in a cage
4 Frequently
9 "Heidi" setting
13 Nat King ____
14 Lock horns
15 Fuel, for some
16 Competent
17 Make more difficult
19 "Do ____ say, not as I do"
20 Baby boxer
21 Extend one's subscription
22 Sightseeing trips
24 Police officer
25 Goings-on
27 March & others
30 Little misses
31 Entreaties
33 Nocturnal bird
35 Hair color
36 Peek at test answers
37 Threesome
38 ____ on the fence; didn't take sides
39 Pretend
40 Gracie Allen's love

- 41 Memorizes
43 Go back on a promise
44 ____ it; understand
45 Sofa
46 See eye to eye
49 Insincere
51 Guacamole or salsa
54 Like libel
56 "____ But the Brave"; Sinatra film
57 Meghan, to George, Charlotte & Louis
58 Perceive; feel
59 Tap a baseball
60 Brooklyn team
61 Drive too fast
62 Horse's cousin

DOWN

- 1 Steals from
2 Unable to read and write
3 Flying insect
4 Takes place
5 Failures
6 Pat down soil
7 Notice
8 Org. for Flames & Flyers
9 Agree to take
10 Money lent
11 Cracker spread
12 Murdered

- 13 Pres. Arthur's initials
18 Actor Jeremy
20 ____ up with; tolerates
23 "Beauty is ____ skin-deep"
24 Outer garment
25 Custard ingredients
26 Went ____; was widely viewed on YouTube
27 Cruel
28 Terrible
29 Go back and forth
31 Fraternity letters
32 Femur's place
34 Suffer defeat
36 Penny
37 Charlie the ____; StarKist mascot
39 Liberated
40 Group of quail
42 Representatives
43 Washed off soapsuds
45 Throw water on
46 Strong ____ ox
47 Adhesive
48 Angry speech
49 Get ready, for short
50 Sharpen
52 Hotels
53 Flea collar wearer
55 Curvy letter
56 Org. for Hawks & Hornets

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Bad Blood
Blank
Country
Fearless
Fifteen
Love
Mean
Now
Red
Reputation
Space
Speak
Story
Swift
Taylor

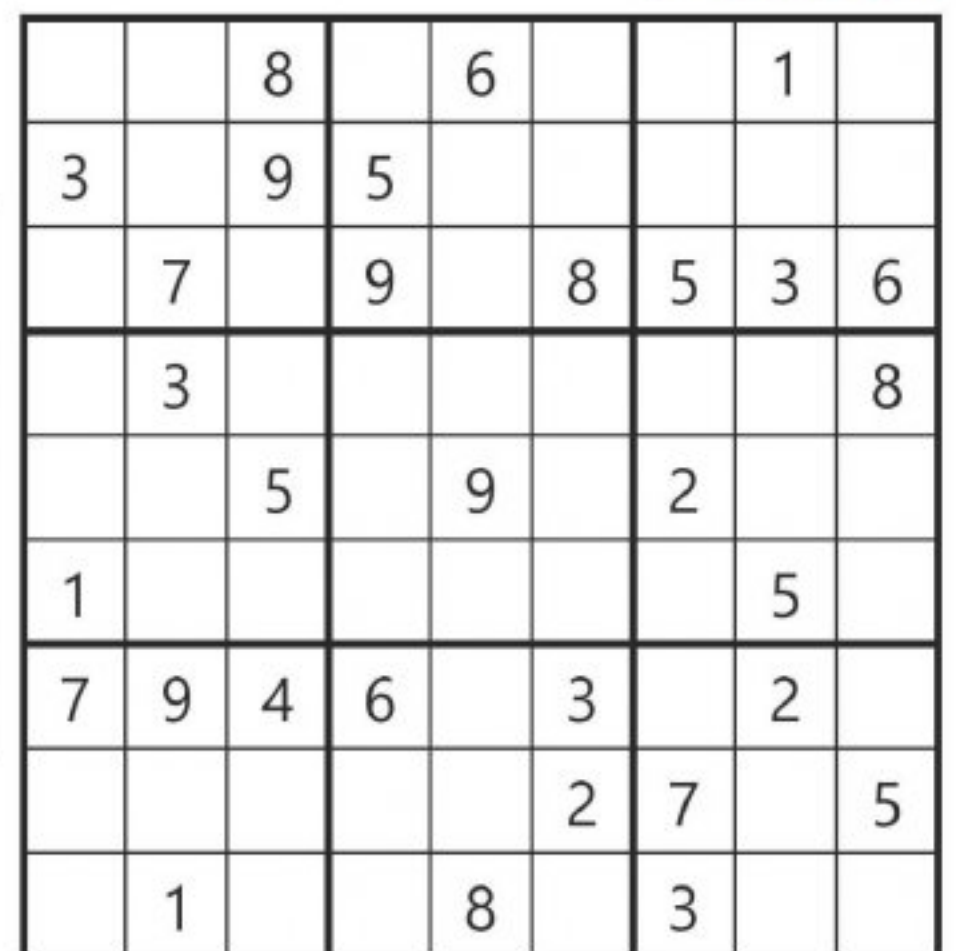
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